

BOTANY WORSTED MILLS, WOOL STORAGE BUILDING
176 Parker Avenue
Passaic
Passaic County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-982-D

HABS
NJ,
16-PASA,
7-D-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BOTANY WORSTED MILLS, WOOL STORAGE BUILDING HABS No. NJ-982-D

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Location: 99 President Street, Passaic, Passaic County,
New Jersey

USGS Weehawken, New Jersey Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.574000.4524700

Significance: The wool storage building was apparently used
at a terminal point of the comprehensive wool
processing and cloth manufacturing operation.
It is a good example of a surviving early
twentieth century brick industrial shed, one of
the simplest building types constructed for the
Botany Worsted Mills, founded in 1889 as the
first integrated woolen processing plant in the
United States.

Description: Situated directly behind NJ-982-A, the wool
storage building is a one-story brick structure
with a shallow gable roof clad in asphalt
shingle. The brickwork is distinguished by
simplified pilasters defining each bay and a
corbeled cornice. Fenestration is regular, and
consists of multipaned metal framed windows
and a number of large roll-up metal garage-type
doors which result from late-20th-century
alterations. A corrugated metal shed roof
supported by metal brackets extends from the
center of the east facade. An elevated ramp
runs the length of the building interior,
accessible to the main floor by a single flight
of wooden stairs and an inclined conveyor
belt. The roof of the elevated ramp projects
above the main building, and is visible on the
entrance facade. Overall dimensions are 55'x
285'.

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History:

The buildings at 99 President Street were originally part of the Botany Worsted Mills, founded in 1889 as the first integrated woolen processing plant in the United States. The wool storage building was built over three periods: 1901-1910, 1910-1918, and 1935-49. The center portion of the building is the oldest section, followed chronologically by the south and north ends of the building. Botany Mills ceased production in 1955, after which the building was leased to a number of industrial tenants.

Historically, the building was called a wool storage facility, and presumably was used as such during the entire time it was owned by Botany Mills. No documentation regarding the specific historic function of the building has been found; neither mechanical nor architectural remains clarify which plant operations occurred within the building. Since the building is located near a former rail terminus, it might well have been a storage area for finished woolen cloth to be shipped to clothing manufacturers and fabric wholesalers and retailers.

Sources:

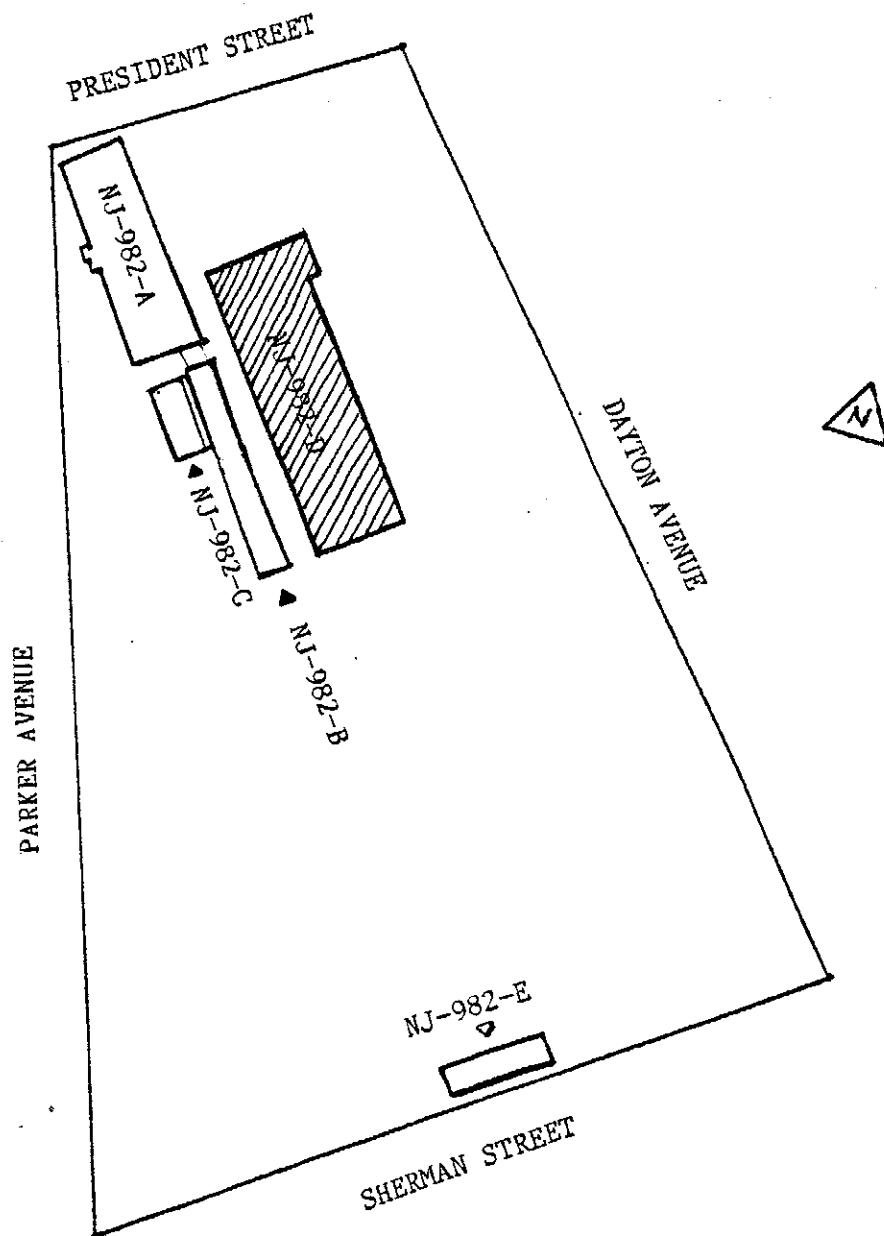
Sanborn Insurance Maps, City of Passaic, 1910, 1918 and 1935 (updated to 1949 and 1951)

Robinson's Atlas of Passaic County, 1901

Historian:

Sally Milner, ACRDTERIDN, 71 Maple Avenue,
Morristown, NJ December 1989

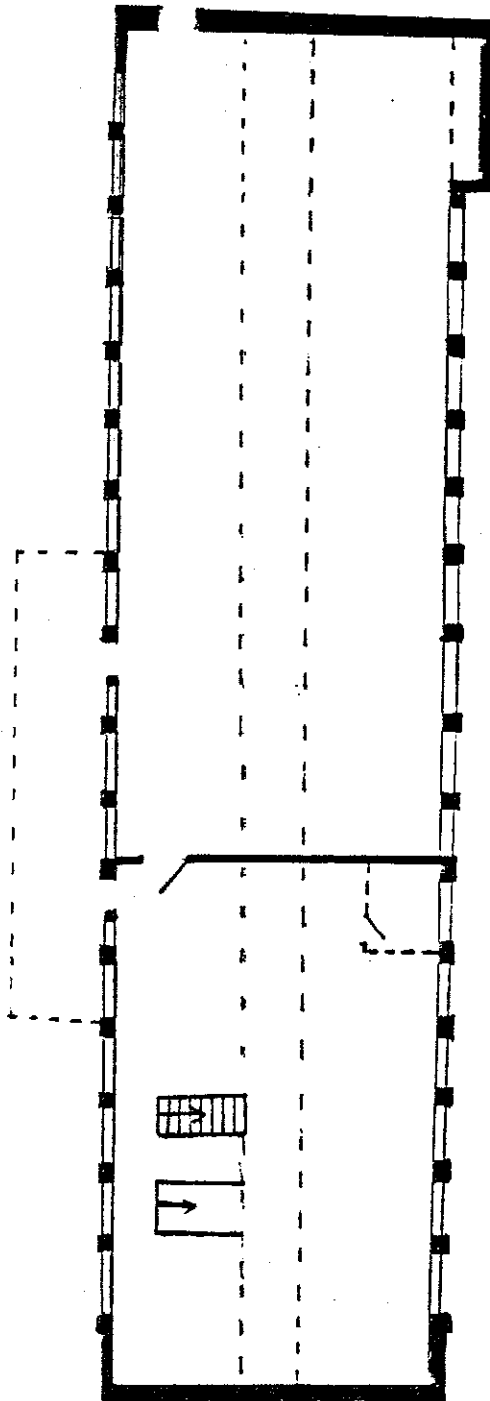
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Wool Storage House
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= subject property

(not to scale)

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(not to scale)